

## Message Text

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ORIGIN SCI-06

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P 171936Z JUN 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL HONG KONG PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MANILA

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

INFO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: OCON, ECAFE, TPHY

SUBJ: ECAFE 30TH SESSION: REPORT OF THE TYPHOON COMMITTEE

(SIXTH SESSION), ITEM 7(B) (III): US POSITION (UNEC D-129)

FOLLOWING IS A REPEAT QUOTE R 252259Z MAR 74 FROM SECSTATE  
WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO, INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK. FOR  
US DEL.

1.PROBLEM:

THE COMMISSION WILL CONSIDER THE REPORT OF THE SIXTH SESSION  
OF THE TYPHOON COMMITTEE, DOCUMENT E/CN.11/1117.

2. U.S. POSITION

(1) THE USDEL CAN SUPPORT THE COMMISSION NOTING WITH APPRE-  
CIATION THE REPORT E/CN. 11/1117 AND CAN ENDORSE THE EFFEC-

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TIVE WORK OF THE TYPHOON COMMITTEE.

2. IN THE EVENT THE SUBJECT OF THE US RESEARCH PROJECT STORMFURY ARISES, THE USDEL MAY STATE THAT PLANS ARE UNDER CONSIDERATION WITHIN THE USG TO SHIFT STORMFURY FROM THE ATLANTIC TO THE PACIFIC IN 1976 DEPENDENT ON THE US CONGRESS MAKING AVAILABLE THE NECESSARY FUNDS AND TAKING INTO ACCOUNT BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS WITH COUNTRIES AND ISLAND TERRITORIES SITUATED IN THE TYPHOON AREA.

(3) IN THE EVENT THE USDEL DOES INTERVENE AS PER THE PRECED-

ING PARA, AND ANOTHER DELEGATION THEN QUESTIONS ANY INCONSISTENCIES WITH THE VERSION OF THE US STATEMENT CONTAINED IN PARA 58 OF THE REPORT (E/CN.11/1117), THE USDEL MAY RESPOND THAT THE USG PROPOSES TO HOLD CONSULTATIONS WITH THE COUNTRIES AND ISLAND TERRITORIES IN THE AREA AFFECTED. WE WOULD EXPECT SUCH CONSULTATIONS TO PROVIDE A FULL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WHICH WILL BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT BEFORE REACHING A DECISION. FYI. THE USDEL SHOULD HOWEVER AVOID USING THE PHRASE QUOTE REQUEST PRIOR CONCURRENCE UNQUOTE WHICH INACCURATELY APPEARS IN PARA 58. END FYI.

### 3. DISCUSSION:

(1) THE TYPHOON COMMITTEE (USUALLY REFERRED TO AS THE WMO/ECAFE TYPHOON COMMITTEE) HAS A MEMBERSHIP OF ECAFE COUNTRIES DESIRING TO PARTICIPATE IN COOPERATIVE EFFORTS TO MINIMIZE TYPHOON DAMAGE IN THE REGION. THE US HAS PLAYED AN ACTIVE ROLE IN THE COMMITTEE AS AN OBSERVER.

THE NEXT SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE IS SCHEDULED TO BE HELD IN OCTOBER 1974 AT MANILA. THE PHILIPPINES HAVE ANNOUNCED INTENTIONS TO HOST AND CONDUCT AN INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON TYPHOON MODIFICATION IN CONJUNCTION WITH THIS SESSION AND THE WMO/ECAFE PANEL ON TROPICAL CYCLONES IS ALSO EXPECTED TO MEET JUST PRIOR TO, OR AFTER, THIS SAME SESSION (SEE ITEM 6(G)(V)).

(2) THE RESEARCH PROJECT STORMFURY HAS BEEN CONDUCTED OVER THE PAST YEARS IN A HIGH SEAS AREA OF THE ATLANTIC AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CARIBBEAN OCEANS BY THE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION (NOAA) AND THE US NAVY. HOWEVER, THE EXPERIMENT HAS BEEN CRITICALLY HAMPERED BY A SCARCITY OF HURRICANES SUITABLE FOR SEEDING UNDER STRICT USG SAFETY CRITERIA SINCE 1971, AT SESSIONS OF BOTH THE ECAFE/WMO TYPHOON COMMITTEE AND THE ECAFE PLENARY, THE US HAD ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS ANNOUNCED IT WAS CONSIDERING A TRANSFER OF STORMFURY TO AN AREA OF THE PACIFIC OCEAN WHERE AN AVERAGE OF

SIX SEEDABLE TYPHOONS USUALLY OCCUR EACH SEASON. THE TRANSFER PROPOSED FOR 1972 WAS DELAYED FOR A VARIETY OF REASONS. THE TRANSFER PROPOSED FOR 1976 STILL DEPENDS ON CONGRESSIONAL FUNDING FOR THE PROJECT IN THAT YEAR, OUR HOLDING CONSULTATIONS WITH THE AFFECTED COUNTRIES AND ISLAND TERRITORIES AND FURTHER EXECUTIVE BRANCH REVIEW AND APPROVAL.

US EXPERIMENTS WITH TROPICAL STORMS THUS FAR INDICATE THAT SEEDING REDUCES TEMPORARILY THE MAXIMUM WINDS, BUT PROBABLY HAS NO EFFECT ON THE STORM'S DIRECTION OR DURATION. BUT A RISK REMAINS THAT A SEEDED STORM COULD CAUSE DAMAGE AND

STRICT SAFETY PRECAUTIONS HAVE BEEN APPLIED IN THE ATLANTIC EXPERIMENTAL AREA, WHERE STORMS AFFECT THE US. PRECAUTIONS AT LEAST AS STRICT WOULD BE APPLIED IN THE PACIFIC. WE ALSO RECOGNIZE THAT THE US MIGHT BE BLAMED FOR DAMAGE THAT MIGHT RESULT FROM A SEEDED STORM, EVEN THOUGH THE SEEDING MIGHT BE UNRELATED TO THE DAMAGE CAUSED.

(3) FYI. THE JAPANESE EXPRESSED SOME RESERVATIONS AND CONCERN ABOUT THE PROPOSED TRANSFER OF STORMFURY AT THE NOVEMBER MEETING. THIS CONCERN MAY HAVE LED TO AN INACCURATE SUMMARIZATION OF THE US POSITION CONTAINED IN PARA 58 OF THE REPORT. ALTHOUGH THE USDEL SAID THEN, AS WE DO NOW, THAT THE USG INTENDS TO HOLD DIPLOMATIC CONSULTATIONS WITH THE COUNTRIES IN THE AREA AFFECTED BY TYPHOONS BEFORE THE TRANSFER OF STORMFURY, WE DID NOT SAY THE US QUOTE WOULD REQUEST (THEIR) PRIOR CONCURRENCE UNQUOTE. BECAUSE OF OUR QUOTE OBSERVER UNQUOTE STATUS AT TC VI, OUR DELEGATION WAS UNABLE TO CORRECT THE RECORD. FURTHERMORE, THE DEPT BELIEVES IT UNWISE FOR THE DELEGATION TO CORRECT PARA 58 AT THIS MEETING. WE HOPE THAT FUTURE TECHNICAL AND DIPLOMATIC CONSULTATIONS WITH COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES IN THE AREA LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AFFECTED WILL ALLEVIATE CONCERNS THAT SOME COUNTRIES MIGHT HAVE ABOUT THE TRANSFER. BEFORE MAKING A FINAL DECISION, THE USG WOULD LIKE TO REVIEW THE POSITIONS OF ALL COUNTRIES IN THE AREA. END FYI.

(4) PARA 57 OF THE REPORT SUMMARIZES THE PHILIPPINE STATEMENT AT THE 6TH SESSION OF THE TYPHOON COMMITTEE. IT IS INACCURATE IN THE SENSE THAT IT IMPLIES THAT THE US IS CONSIDERING BILATERAL COLLABORATION WITH THE GOP IN TYPHOON MODERATION. THE US CURRENTLY HAS NO PLANS FOR BILATERAL COLLABORATION IN ANY FORM OF EXPERIMENTAL WEATHER MODIFICATION. IF THIS SUBJECT ARISES IN CORRIDOR DISCUSSIONS, MEMBERS OF THE DELEGATION MAYWISH TO CLARIFY THIS POINT.

(5) IN THE EVENT STORMFURY ARISES, USDEL, DRAWING ON  
PARA 3(2), SHOULD IMMEDIATELY THEREAFTER BILATERALLY  
BRIEF MICRONESIAN DEL. EXACT LOCATION OF PROPOSED RESEARCH  
AREA IS STILL UNDER REVIEW AND THE USG WILL BE IN CLOSE  
TOUCH WITH THE MICRONESIANS ON THIS. RUSH UNQUOTE. SISCO

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